the pit head stocks continue to be more than the annual production. Positions for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:—

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Output per Manshift (OMS)	Stock as at end of the year (in lakh tonnes)
1997-98	6.87	0.77	9.27
1998-99	6.37	0.67	8.43

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no motive of the management to desert the NEC offices. Only three executives have been transferred from Guwahati office during the year 1999 purely on their own request and also considering their long stay. In place of the general manager, so transferred, immediate replacement was provided at Guwahati to head the office.

(e) It may not be economically profitable for CIL to enhance the production in NEC at present. However, efforts continue to be made to improve the marketing opportunities, besides attempting cost control and manpower reduction.

Caving in of coal mines in Bihar

1459. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the coal mines in Bihar which have caved in during the last two years;

(b) what has been the loss of men and material in such mishaps;

(c) what action has been taken against the persons responsible for negligence; and

(d) what measures have been taken to prevent these cases of subsidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) There have been only three incidents of caving-in of mines in the state of Bihar

during the last two years and the loss of man and materials is as under:—

Year	Colliery	Remarks
1997-98	Simlabahal Colliery	Potholing took place on 14.8.97 at Dhaskapati after heavy rain in which a girl was reported to have got buried but the same could not be established as efforts to trace the body with the help of a shovel, a dozer and a payloader for three continuous days did not lead to recovery of the body. 21 BCCL houses and 60 unauthorised constructions were demolished and people shifted. Existence of fire in old workings of 14 and 15 seems have been the primary cause of subsidence in the locality. Apart from this, existence of old caved goaves of 14/15 seam has also contributed to the subsidence. The history of fire dates back to 1940 in this mine. Fire occurred in 14 seam in 1951.
	Kustore Colliery	In May, 1997 about 30 arch type old quarters (Dhowrah) of BCCL employees developed crack above the East Kustore Section of Kustore Colliery because of surface subsidence. Subsidence occurred in the XI seam old workings made before 1960. The workers residing in the arch type Dhowrah were shifted to other places.
1998-99	Godhur	On 6.2.99, 36 houses of Rewani Basti developed cracks out of 36 houses, 24 belong to BCCL. The families have been shifted.

(c) No person was held responsible for two incidences at Simlabahal Colliery and Kustore Colliery.

As regards subsidence of Godhur Colliery of Kusunda area, the General Manager of Kusunda area, the Agent and the Colliery Manager of the Godhur Colliery were held responsible DGMS has initiated prosecution proceedings against these officers.

(d) All requisite measures as are required to prevent subsidence are always taken as under:—

(1) Depillaring operations are carried out after taking permission from Director General Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Coal Mines Regulations 1957. The conditions imposed by DGMS while granting permission are fully complied with.

(2) Due to the unscientific and unplanned workings by the erstwhile owners (before nationalisation of coal mines), number of areas in Jharia coalfield have been declared unstable. Efforts are being made by BCCL for stabilisation of these unstable areas.

(3) 5 projects for stabilisation for subsidence control and additional 4 projects for subsidence control as a result of fire are presently under implementation with funding from Ministry of Coal at a cost of Rs. 16.18 crores at Kusunda, Kustore, Lodna area and at Bata More of Jharia township. One project has been completed in June' 99.

(4) Shifting a large numebr of its employees from unsafe/unstable areas to safer place on Non-Coal bearing land. BCCL has constructed more than 13000 houses on non-coal bearing areas and has shifted its employees from the coal bearing areas in 13 townships.

A demonstration project for shifting of people from most endangered areas of BCCL (4600 houses) is under implementation with funding from Govt. of India at a cost of Rs. 33.88 crores.

Privatisation of Hindustan Copper Ltd.

1460. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Copper Limited is proposed to be privatised;